

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Freudenthal declares 2nd Week in May “Wyoming Invasive Weed Awareness Week”

Hunting, fishing, recreation, tourism, mining and agriculture are integral parts of Wyoming's economy. These industries depend on healthy livestock, soils and wildlife which require healthy native plant communities. The rich varieties of habitats found throughout the State are treasured by residents and visitors alike. Few people realize that our precious landscapes are vulnerable to invasion by aggressive, non-native species called noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are most commonly introduced from Europe and Asia. They have the ability to spread quickly and out-compete native plants for water, nutrients and sunlight, reducing the nutritious forage available for livestock and wildlife. Some species increase the risk of fire and soil erosion, while others such as Saltcedar (tamarix) can reduce the availability of one of our most precious resources - water.

Unfortunately, humans are responsible for many of the noxious weed introductions and their spread. Over 100 years of settlement, development and recreation have contributed to noxious weed infestations statewide. Recognizing the seriousness of this issue, Governor Freudenthal will declare the second week in May as Wyoming Invasive Weed Awareness Week (WIWAW). Focusing on the noxious weed issue annually during the month of May will allow the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council (WWPC) and the local Weed and Pest Districts to increase public awareness and highlight the threats noxious weeds pose to our State.

To kick off the first annual WIWAW, Weed and Pest Districts throughout the State are offering educational activities and events to assist landowners and land managers. See below for a list of events in each county. Please call the number provided for more details for each event.

Wyoming Invasive Weed Awareness Week Activities:

Big Horn County - Open House, May 14-16, 765-2855

Campbell County - Small Acreage Workshop, May 14, 10 a.m., 682-4369

Open House May 16, 3-5 p.m., 682-4369

Carbon County - Open House, May 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 324-6584

Johnson County - Open House, May 14, 1-3 p.m., 684-5715

Niobrara County - Tour: Russian Olive, Saltcedar & More!, July 10-11, 334-3373

Park County - Weed Identification Training, May 13 and 15, 5 p.m., 754-8884 or 527-8884

Open House at the Powell Warehouse, May 14, 5-7 p.m., 754-8884

Weed Pull with Buffalo Bill Historical Center, May 16, 527-8884

Russian Olive/Saltcedar Demonstrations (Powell and Cody), May 17, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 754-8884 or 527-8884

Sheridan County - Board tour of Saltcedar Biocontrol, May 15, 672-3740

Sublette County - Open House, May 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 367-4728

Teton County - Interactive Biocontrol Release, May 16, 1 p.m., 733-8419

Uinta County - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, May 10, 789-9289

Whether you are a rancher, outdoor enthusiast, fisherman, hunter, landowner or visitor this issue impacts you. Protecting our natural resources is everyone's responsibility and can be as simple as learning to identify the noxious weeds found in your local area. The most important thing is to help control current infestations and stop new species from being introduced. This can be done by using Certified Weed Free Forage products and taking time to clean your equipment, hiking and camping gear, shoes and pets before moving to a new location. Please report new infestations to your local Weed and Pest District and don't be afraid to utilize your local District for assistance on your own property. To learn more please visit the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council website at www.wyoweed.org.

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